

RELEVANT TREE DEFINITIONS FROM RZC 21.78

Bark. The protective outer covering of branches and stems that arises from the cork cambium.

Bracing. Installation of rods through portions of a tree for supplemental structural support.

Caliper. American Nursery and Landscape Association standard for measurement of trunk size of nursery stock. The diameter of the tree trunk measured at six inches above the ground for trees up to and including four-inch caliper size and twelve inches above the ground for larger trees.

Calipers. Instrument used to measure trunk size.

Certified Arborist. A person ~~or firm~~ with specialized training and knowledge of the horticultural requirements of trees, certified by the International Society of Arboriculture ~~or the National Arborist Association.~~

Critical Root Zone. The area of soil around a tree where the minimum number of roots considered critical to the structural stability or health of the tree are located. Defined as the tree canopy plus five feet.

Dead Tree. A tree that is no longer alive but is still standing.

Declining Tree. When a tree gradually loses vigor as displayed by poor growth, dieback of twigs and branches, early leaf drop for deciduous trees, and other signs of disease or environmental stress.

Diameter at Breast Height. The diameter of any tree trunk, measured at four and one-half feet above average grade. For species of trees whose normal growth habit is characterized by multiple stems (e.g., hazelnut, vine maple), diameter shall mean the average diameter of all stems of the tree, measured at a point six inches from the point where the stems digress from the main trunk. In no case shall a branch more than six inches above average grade be considered a stem. (SMP)

Diseased Tree. A tree with sustained and progressive impairment of the structure or function of the tree, caused by biotic or abiotic agents.

Drip Line. An area encircling the base of a tree, the minimum extent of which is delineated by a vertical line extending from the outer limit of a tree's branch tips down to the ground.

Girdling. Restriction or destruction of the vascular system within a root, stem, or branch that causes an inhibition of the flow of water and photosynthates.

Hazardous Tree. A tree that ~~is dead, or~~ is so affected by a significant structural defect or disease, that falling or failure appears imminent, or a tree that impedes safe vision or traffic flow, or that otherwise currently poses a threat to life or property.

Impacted Tree. A tree that is not being removed but which will have grading or construction within the critical root zone. An impacted tree is counted as a removed tree due to the inability to guarantee the tree and root system's health and viability.

Injured Tree. A tree that is wounded and the tissue is not repaired and does not heal.

Landmark Tree. Any healthy tree over thirty inches or greater in diameter at breast height.

Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA). An area where native vegetation is preserved for the purpose of preventing harm to property and the environment, including but not limited to providing open space, maintaining wildlife corridors, maintaining slope stability, controlling runoff and erosion, and/or any other purpose designated by approval.

Native Growth Protection Easement (NGPE). An easement where native vegetation is preserved for the purpose of preventing harm to property and the environment, including but not limited to providing open space, maintaining wildlife corridors, maintaining slope stability, controlling runoff and erosion, and/or any other purpose designated by approval.

Native Vegetation. Those plants which are indigenous to the coastal Pacific Northwest. It does not include lawns, but does include native grasses, such as bunchgrass. (Resource for identifying native plants: Pojar, Jim and MacKinnon, Andy. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska. Redmond, WA: Lone Pine Publishing, 1994). (SMP)

Pruning. Selective removal of branches or roots to improve tree health, reduce risk or removal of dead wood.

Retained Tree. A tree that is remaining and which no construction or grading will take place within the tree's critical root zone. Also referred to as Saved Tree.

Removal. Removal of a tree(s) or vegetation, through either direct or indirect actions, including but not limited to clearing, cutting, causing irreversible damage to roots or trunks; poisoning; destroying the structural integrity; and/or any filling, excavation, grading, or trenching in the ~~drip line area~~ critical root zone of a tree which has the potential to cause irreversible damage to the tree, or relocation of an existing tree to a new planting location.

Significant Tree. Any healthy tree six inches in diameter at breast height (d.b.h.), or any tree four inches in diameter at breast height (d.b.h.) that, after considering its age, height, value, or function, the tree or tree stand is determined to be significant. (SMP). This term also applies Citywide. This does not include trees identified on the King County Noxious Weed List.

Snag. An upright, dead or dying stump or trunk of a tree that provides habitat for a broad range of wildlife, from beetle larvae (and the birds such as woodpeckers that feed upon them) to dens for raccoons. (SMP)

Three Tier Vegetative Plan. A landscape plan prepared or approved by a certified landscape architect, certified nurseryman, or certified landscaper that includes groundcover, understory plantings, and trees.

Topping. Cutting the branches and/or leader of a tree in a manner that destroys the existing symmetrical appearance or natural structure of the tree and involves the removal of main lateral branches and leaving the trunk of the tree or major branches of the tree with a stub appearance. This does not include pruning fruit trees to encourage the production of fruit.

Tree. A self-supporting woody plant characterized by one main trunk or, for certain species, multiple trunks, with a potential at maturity for a trunk diameter of two inches and potential minimum height of 10 feet.

Tree, Stand. A group of three or more trees of any size or species, whose drip lines touch.

Understory Vegetation. Small trees, shrubs, and groundcover plants, growing beneath and shaded by a significant tree, which affect and are affected by the soil and hydrology of the area surrounding the significant tree roots.